

John, M.A. is after even more academic honours

JOHN Williams is probably the most disabled university student in the country, but though he cannot walk or talk or feed himself, his brilliantly intellectual mind continues to win him academic honours.

It started with getting his B.A. at Reading University — then he moved to the University of Sussex, one of the foremost universities in enabling the disabled to study on campus. He has just been awarded his M.A.

It consisted of five subjects: International theory, foreign policy analysis, European integration, a seminar paper on bureaucracy in international relations, and a dissertation on the H-bomb debate in the U.S.A.

Now he has set his eyes on a further academic achievement — this time his Master of Philosophy degree. Unlike the last two degrees, it will not require so much written work and, instead of notes being constantly written up, he will have a long thesis to produce next summer.

He uses Possum equipment and a typewriter in his work, and one of his major difficulties is getting the books he needs for his studies.

For his next degree, John is working on the Pentagon Papers — highly confidential papers of the American Defence Department.

Once he has completed the work, John plans to publish a book on the H-bomb debate and the Pentagon Papers. His ambition is to visit America, which his tutor thinks is just possible, although John has his doubts. Finance is always a problem.

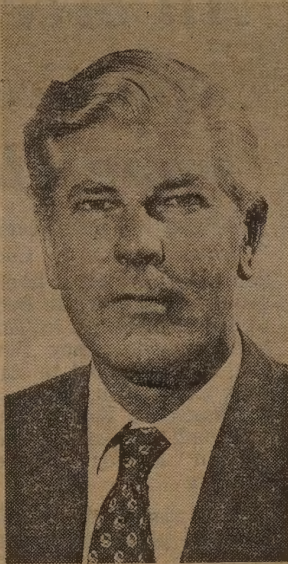
And as for work — John is going to "look out for opportunities."

New Chairman for the Society

THE Spastics Society has a new Chairman. He is Mr. Dorrien Belson, who was elected in November, following the retirement of Mr. William Burn who has been Chairman since 1966.

Mr. Belson, a company director, has been Honorary Treasurer of the Society since 1969. He is the parent of a spastic son, and first became actively concerned with the voluntary movement to aid spastics through his wife's efforts to start a Local Group in Bath, Somerset, now the thriving Bath and District Spastics Society, of which Mr. Belson is President. When the family moved to London it was not long before Mr. Belson was deeply involved with the work of the Society, first as a committee member, and then as Executive Council member and Honorary Treasurer.

At the last meeting of the Executive Council, Mr. Burn was warmly thanked for his dedicated work on behalf of spastics not only during the years of his Chairmanship, but also during the previous six years when he was Honorary Treasurer of the Society. With the vote of thanks came



Mr. Dorrien Belson

appreciation that Mr. Burn would continue to serve on the Executive Council. Thanks to Mr. Burn were also expressed by the Director, Mr. James Loring, on behalf of the Society's staff.

Mr. Belson told the Executive Council that he was sure he could count on the support of everyone connected with the Society. Members of the Council, the Honorary Officers, voluntary groups and Society staff, both at headquarters and in the regions, were all working together as a team with the common aim of helping spastics.

The retiring Chairman told Spastics News: "My years as Chairman have been exhilarating, invigorating and satisfying, but it is inevitable that in the best interests of the Society a change must be made sometime. I know that Mr. Belson will bring new ideas and a fresh approach to the objectives of the Society. The interests of the Society and of the spastics we seek to help will always mean a very great deal to me, and I am delighted to continue my work with the Executive Council."



Mr. William Burn

Mr. Belson's son, Anthony, is a resident of the Society's Thorngrove Agricultural Centre at Gillingham, Dorset, and has previously attended Jacques Hall Centre and Ingfield Manor School. As a result, Mr. Belson knows the Society's services from a parent's point of view, and he told Spastics News: "The Society does a very good job and, because I know it does such a good job, I think it can do an even better one in the future." As to priority objectives under his leadership, Mr. Belson said that he was naturally concerned about the spastics who the Society, through lack of resources, had not yet been able to help. He also hoped that more young people would come forward as volunteers to work for spastics.

Mr. Belson has been succeeded as Honorary Treasurer by Mr. John Grenier, who has served on the Executive Council for some years. Mr. Alex Moira and Mr. Herbert Palmer have been re-elected as Vice-Chairmen.



Mr. Alan Roberts, left, and Mr. Eddie Collins prepare for a marathon fish-in off Clarence Pier, Southsea, to aid Portsmouth and District Spastics Society.

Working in shifts of six hours on and four hours off, they hope to fish continuously for 59 days. They expect to finish on December 22nd, just in time for Christmas.

By the second week in November they had already broken a world angling record. This was a 285 hours 43 minutes fishing stint set up by three Americans under the same conditions.

The two men are hoping to raise £20,000 from sponsors. This will go towards a new residential spastics home to be built in Portsmouth.

Their catch is going to the "Air Balloon," a local public house. The larger fish are distributed among old age pensioners, the tiddlers being eaten by the landlord's cat.

Picture by courtesy of The News, Portsmouth

David may be first spastic R.C. priest

DAVID Hartley, aged 24, of Barnsley, could be the first-ever spastic to become a Roman Catholic priest.

He has just started the long, intensive course of study which, if he is successful, means that at the end of six years he will be ordained priest.

His mother, Mrs. Ivy Hartley, a nurse, explained: "One of my grandfathers was a curate, I believe, but that's as far as it went. Then two or three years ago David became converted to the Roman Catholic religion, and now he's gone to Ushaw College, Durham, to study. He's an athetoid, and deaf with a speech impediment, but he's very determined. He's already got his Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award."

David, who was a pupil at the Wilfred Pickles School run by The Spastics Society, qualified after a four-year course as a turner and worked in industry for a time.



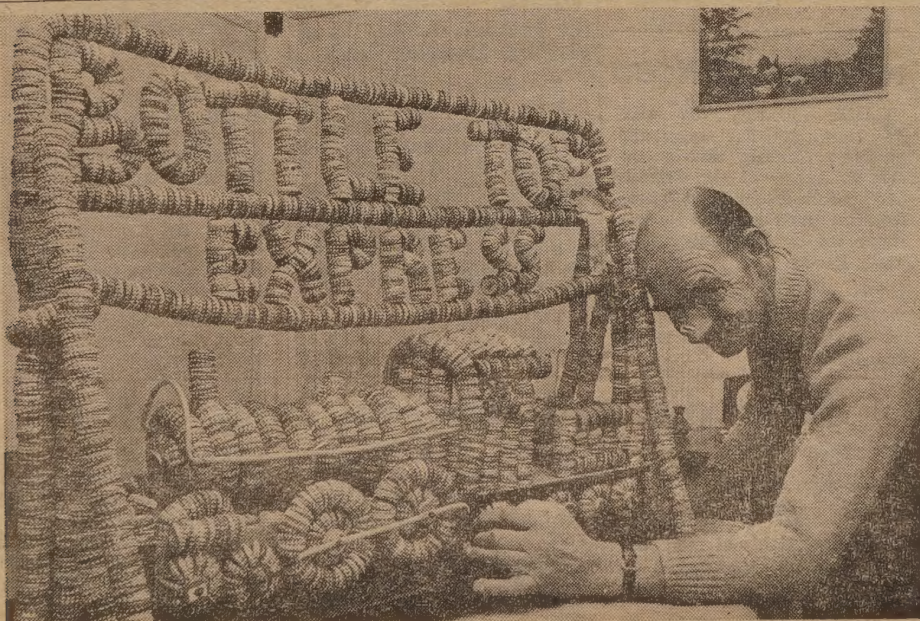
provide the caps which Joe carefully colour graded and strung together on wire for the model. It took him two weeks to make — considerably less than it took to produce the building materials. Joe, however, is a modest imbibor, downing only the occasional pint when enjoying a game of darts.

It was thirsty villagers at Joe's Essex home of Marks Tey who did the drinking for him.

RAILWAY signalman Joe English's express intention is to help spastics, and his way of going about it tops them all.

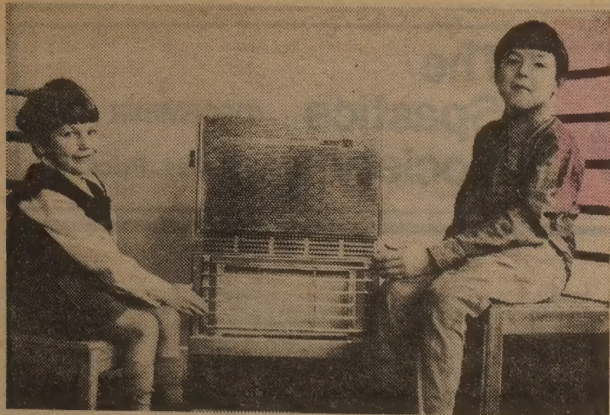
For while some people use old beer bottles to decorate their garden paths, Joe has gone to the other extreme and used the caps to build a model engine. He plans to put his "Bottle Top Express" on display in a local pub to raise money for spastics.

A mind - swimming 6,870 bottles had to be emptied to



SEE ME ON
PAGE 3





Warm hearts solve heating worries

IT was late on a Saturday night. Light was streaming through the windows of the workshop at the Society's Craig-y-Parc School. I peeped in. Bob Richards, the Welsh TV personality, and his wife were painting scenery; so were Mr. and Mrs. Sam Isaacs and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Tanner. Mr. and Mrs. P. Saunders were sorting out electrical problems.

The set-up suggested preparations for a cowboy film. All the things one associates with Westerns were there.

The group was busy once more, and had been for some weeks. It appears that one of them had heard Mrs. Cecily Kearslake, the Headmistress, mention that she was worried about the possible oil shortage. "We had better do something about this, Harry," said Sam.

The group had "done something" earlier in the year and Craig-y-Parc had benefited by £700.

The members of this small body "did something" again on Saturday, November 10th, and, helped by the Craig-y-Parc staff, entertained more than 300 guests at a Western style hoe-down and dance.

It was a warm business in more senses than one, as Elfed Hughes will testify.

For four hours he and his helpers were busy in the "saloon" and when 300 chicken and chips arrived this was the only time when there was space at the bar. When home-made apple tart was handed out, folks really were surprised.

With entertainment provided

by The Triban and Bob Richards, music supplied by the "Nashville Sound" group, and a display, yes, quite a display by the Can-Can Girls, the evening went with a swing.

At midnight, Mrs. Kearslake and the members of the group counted the takings — more than £300. On Monday morning the money was spent. A consignment of modern Calor-Gas heaters arrived.

Our photograph shows the youngest pupil at the school, Henry Johnson, 6, with Nicholas Turner, aged 9, warming themselves during the cold spell that followed in mid-November.

No, the pupils of Craig-y-Parc will not be cold this winter.

"Don't throw the props away," said Harry Tanner. "We are putting something else on in February."

Jack Pettican

A PARTY of spastic children from Corseford School, Johnstone, Renfrewshire, recently enjoyed a weekend in Blackpool, during which they saw the famous illuminations.

The group consisted of 13 children, 10 of whom were in wheelchairs, and 10 housemothers and school sisters under the leadership of Sister M. K. Asbury. The cost of transport was met by the Garnock Valley Round Table, Kilburnie, and accommodation provided by Blackpool Spastics Association.

An uphill climb—but twins stay together

Twins Gillian and Judith Swainson are only 11 but already they have taken a big decision — where one goes the other goes too. And that means quite a lot for both girls are spastics.

For Gillian however the condition is very slight but Judith needs a walking aid. This term they started at secondary school and Judith has opted to go to the same one as Gillian although it has a great many stairs, no lifts, and she was offered a place at a school with fewer stairs.

Said their mother Mrs. Vera Swainson, 53, of Peterlee, Durham:

Lesson time

ham "It seems incredible to me that a new school with three flights of stairs should have no lift. The girls change classrooms for most lessons and even change buildings at times. After her first day, Judith came home and said she'd climbed eleven flights of stairs."

Gillian always remains with her sister for the classroom moves which take them about a quarter of an hour. Now Mrs. Swainson is concerned that they should not lose too much lesson time.

She added: "I think it is good for the girls to be among able-bodied youngsters and I also think it is good for the other children to see their problems. The staff and pupils are being most helpful. My girls don't want sympathy — they just want their independence and to be accepted."



All over the world spastics face the same old problem

AMONG the many overseas visitors to London this year was a lively group of ladies from Bellwoods Park House in Toronto, Canada. They flew over by Jumbo Jet to stay for a fortnight at The Spastics Society's Family Services and Assessment Centre in Fitzroy Square, London.

This was partly a holiday and partly an opportunity to attend the '62 Clubs Conference at Reading University. For most of them it was their first visit to Europe.

Bellwood Park House is a purpose-built residential centre right in the heart of Toronto. Opened in 1967 by the Adult Cerebral Palsy Institute of Metropolitan Toronto, it provides a home for 61 disabled adults, most of whom are spastics.

The first

The Centre was the first of its kind in North America. It caters for both men and women aged from the late teens to over 60. The all-female group visiting England belonged to the upper age group, the oldest being 73.

In London, they made the rounds of the usual tourist sights, such as Greenwich and Madame Tussauds. For many, the highlight of the tour was seeing Buckingham Palace, and a trip to the West End shops was another important item on the itinerary. They found the big department stores very similar to those in Toronto, though

more crowded, with prices about the same.

Excursions were also made to the Society's Thomas Delarue School and to Meadway works, Birmingham, so that the visitors could see a little of what is being done for spastics over here. Canada has very few centres for the cerebral palsied at present but new projects are in hand, especially for the more severely handicapped.

Handicrafts

The visitors were interested in the various processes being carried out at Meadway, as they have a workshop at their own centre. Most of the residents spend two or three days a week occupied in handicrafts such as embroidery, leatherwork and weaving. One of the Canadians was wearing a fashionable striped waistcoat which she had woven herself.

The Reading Conference brought home to the visitors how the same practical problems crop up for spastics all over the world. In Canada, as in Britain, the main difficulties are with transportation, access and employment.

The Canadian visitors gather in the TV room at the Fitzroy Square centre for a light-hearted discussion of the day's outing. They are, left to right, Ethel Batho, Ruth Ro, a housemother from Bellwoods Park House; Mary Page, Rosemary Graves, Marjorie Steer, part-time Receptionist at Bellwoods Park; Violet Spencer, Kerreen Clarke, Babe Francis, at 73, the oldest in the party, and Louise Turtle, President of the Residents' Council at Bellwoods. Standing behind Louise is Narine Palmer, another housemother accompanying the group.

As tourists they were made sharply aware of the access question because many of London's best-known landmarks are still unsuitable for wheelchair users. They were unable to see very much at Madame Tussauds, for instance, because the lift was out of order.

However, the visitors found the general public much more helpful here than in Canada and all were full of praises for the Police cadets who lent a hand at the conference and on sightseeing trips.

The efforts of the Fitzroy Square staff were also greatly appreciated by the Canadian visitors and the warm hospitality they found everywhere helped to make this holiday the experience of a lifetime.



Sir Winston's nephew helps White Lodge

SIR Winston Churchill's nephew, John Spencer-Churchill, like his uncle a noted painter, opened a special art exhibition in Weybridge recently. For 25 per cent of the artists' sales, was donated to the White Lodge Centre for Spastics Children at Chertsey.

The nine-day show drew work from professional artists and sculptors worth over £5,000. Mrs. Betty Fry who organised the event for the fourth year running said: "Over 1,000 people came and the takings were about £3,000. That means

White Lodge will get in the region of £600".

Mr. C. Smith, White Lodge's administrator said of the show that it was: "A wonderful help. The money raised will be used to buy educational equipment for the children".

Mr. Maurice Fry bid £65 for this sketch of the late Sir Winston Churchill in his Garter robes, painted by Mr. John Spencer-Churchill, who bears a strong family resemblance to his uncle.

Picture by courtesy of G. Purser.

The Dudley Lodge of the Loyal Order of Moose, a nation-wide fraternity which aims to help others, has presented £200 and a wheelchair to Dudley and District Spastics Group. The money was raised mainly at a brass band concert and a wine and cheese party.

New machine at Truro aids early diagnosis

A £4,000 electromyograph, a sensitive instrument used in the diagnosis of brain damage, was handed over to the West Cornwall Hospital Management Committee by the Cornish Spastics Society on Tuesday, October 23, at Treliske Hospital, Truro.

The machine augments the purpose-built Counselling and Assessment Centre half a mile away at the Royal Cornwall Hospital. That £31,000 unit was financed by the Cornish Spastics Society, with a sizeable contribution from The Spastics Society, and is the only one of its kind in this part of the West Country.

This latest piece of equipment is used for diagnosis of all types of handicap by inter-

preting brain waves. It is also used for diagnosis amongst geriatric patients.

Making the presentation was the Chairman of the Cornish Group, Mr. Philip Varcoe. He said: "The unit is a great improvement as the nearest similar unit is in Plymouth—nearly 100 miles from some parts of the area."

Sir Keith Joseph, Minister of Health, who visited the centre recently, said that he was impressed with both the unit and the way it had been financed.

Cornwall County Medical Officer, Dr. J. Binysh, said: "It is a magnificent effort on behalf of the Cornish Spastics Society in providing this equipment."

And he added: "The Assessment Centre is proving to be invaluable."

MELDRETH CONCERT

JAKE Thakray, the well-known satirical singer and guitarist, recently gave a concert on behalf of the Friends of Meldreth Manor School, near Royston, Hertfordshire. He was supported by the lively group Flaky Pastry.

The hall at Melbourn Village College was loaned free of charge for the concert which raised £80.

Rain did not dampen their spirits

IT rained all the time, the wheelchairs had to be pushed through hawthorn bushes and fields of mud, but despite it all, the first ever camping weekend for six severely handicapped spastics at

Granville House, Stockport, Cheshire was a great success.

So much so that an even bigger camp will be organised next year.

Granville House headmistress, Mrs. Jill O'Brien, with a band of helpers who included four girls from the local com-

prehensive school, took the party aged between 14 and 38 to the Toc H camp at Adlington, Cheshire.

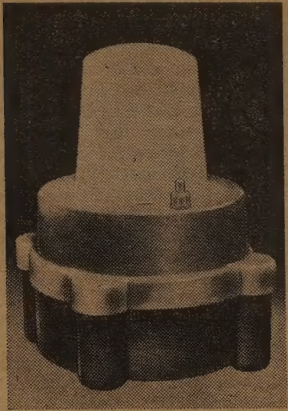
"It rained all the time and we had to hold the barbecue indoors but it was still a great success and everyone enjoyed it", she said.

Just in case the lights go out...

POWER cuts are threatened again and, as many people found two winters ago, candles are not the safest form of emergency lighting for the shaky handed or where there are small children running about.

However, there is now a useful battery lantern on the market, made of strong polythene, which can be used either as a table lamp or hanging light.

Standing 8½ ins. high and 6 ins. square at the base, it is powered by a standard 6-volt 996 battery obtainable from most electrical shops. It gives



sufficient light to look up telephone numbers or radio programmes, if not for more prolonged reading.

There are no sharp corners and the push-button switch can be operated with one hand. Anyone with poor manual dexterity might need help with changing the battery, but this should not have to be done very often.

The lamp would also be ideal for camping or use in an out-house not connected to mains electricity. With the battery in place it weighs 1 lb. 12 ozs., and can be carried by means of a metal handle which folds neatly under the base.

The lamp has been tested by an athetoid in the home and it really is stable enough to stand up to most involuntary knocks. The tough polythene casing would probably come to little harm even if the lamp were accidentally pushed over.

The lanterns (without batteries) cost £2.15 each, including VAT and postage, or £4 for two. They are obtainable direct from the distributors: Harris Marketing, 16 Hillcroome Road, Sutton, Surrey.

FOR SALE

Latest model Hoyer Travel Lifter. Model HTL, as new. Easy to dismantle and store in car boot. Also adjustable for narrow doorways. Cost £131, will accept £90. — Webb "Longridge," Baunton Lane, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 2LN.

FOR SALE

Girl's Shoes, Clarks, black, with buckle. Left foot 1½F, Right foot 2½F. Price £2.50 including postage. The shoes are brand new as advertiser had to buy two pairs to fit her daughter, who has feet of different sizes. — Mrs. H. A. Speake, 11, Cowper Road, Bromley, Kent, BR2 9RT.



Boppo the Bear with his book, his artist, Cameron, left, and the author of his adventures, Bob Cotton.

Boppo will make many new friends this Christmas

MANY a stocking this Christmas will no doubt contain a large flat oblong shape—The Boppo Book. Already children everywhere have been enthralled by the sunny tales of the lovable bear called Boppo and the colourful illustrations of his adventures.

Boppo sprang from an idea of Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, and came to life in the hands of Robert Cotton the author who created him, and Cameron the painter.

Now Bob Cotton has told the story of Boppo's origins and—like all the best fairy tales—it has romance, humour, challenge and success for its ingredients.

Bob explained: "When I was much younger I was the temporary but proud possessor of a beautiful Romanian girl friend.

"Her cascades of shining black hair, huge eyes, together with a rare ability to flutter her eyelashes, put me in mind of an exotic insect. So naturally I called her Beetle.

Her uncle

"One day the Beetle introduced me to her uncle who had come to live with her family. 'This is my favourite uncle Bzgapokrznik'—or that's what it sounded like.

"Without a second's hesitation I replied: 'Very pleased to meet you, Uncle Boppo.'

"And that is really how it all started, for he looked just like a grown-up bear. 'One day' I said to myself, 'you'll write stories about Boppo the Bear.'"

Time passed and the Beetle, Uncle Boppo and Bob Cotton all went their separate ways. Bob married a girl who was to become a consultant physiotherapist to The Spastics Society, and through her, became interested in the Society's work and joined the Appeals Committee.

Bob was earning money through writing and licensing

the rights of popular children's characters to toy and breakfast cereal manufacturers.

He went on: "So when James Loring suggested: 'Why don't we find ourselves a children's character, develop it and make some money for the Society?' I was all ready and, remembering the Beetle and her uncle, I produced the first Boppo Book."

Of course it was not quite as simple as that for Boppo had to be brought to life visually. The hunt was on for an artist but despite visiting exhibitions and searching through children's books it seemed there was no one who would fit the bill. Then Bob saw the award winning poster for Chambourcy Yogurt. It showed just the fantastic animals and figures he had imagined for Boppo. He met the artist Cameron who became intensely interested in developing a children's character to help The Spastics Society.

Then Bob found sympathetic and imaginative publishers in the shape of Purnell's and Boppo was finally born.

And after all the hard work that went into producing Boppo, it is now Boppo's turn to do some hard work too—as Bob pointed out.

"There is no need for me to spell out why The Spastics Society needs money. Approximately 100,000 severely disabled children and adults are their own argument, and although the Society has not the resources to help them all, we do and will continue to do the very best we can.

"And Boppo is going to help. In due course, when he is known and has become a Greatly Loved Bear, we shall earn money for the Society by licensing merchandising rights to interested manufacturers.

"We shall sell Boppo Books to our members and sympathisers. Our collecting boxes and appeals will feature Boppo. Influential friends have started Boppo's Club, and have plans to publicise him and what he stands for all over the country.

"In short, while Boppo is a figure of fun, the pleasure he gives will assist those among us who badly need our care.

"And surely that is a good reason to remember with thanks both the Beetle and her Uncle Bzgapokrznik."

Chairman Valerie will study U.S. methods

MRS. Valerie Phillips, Chairman of the Medway Towns Branch of The Spastics Society, has been granted a travelling award which will enable her to study the work being done for spastics in the United States.

The award is one of several presented annually by the National Westminster Bank's Chief Executive to employees who have given outstanding service to the bank or the community at large. Recipients are able to spend some time in a foreign country studying a subject of special interest which need not necessarily be connected with banking.

Involved

Mrs. Phillips had no personal involvement with the problems of spasticity, but her interest in the work began when the Medway Towns group was looking for a replacement for its retiring treasurer. Committee members contacted the Manager of the Gillingham, Kent, branch where Mrs. Phillips was then employed. He suggested that she took over the voluntary post and she has been deeply involved with work for spastics ever since.

This year she was elected Chairman and, at 32, must be one of the youngest people to fill this role in all the 177 local groups of The Spastics Society.

Mrs. Phillips now works for the National Westminster Bank's Financial Loans Department in the city of London. Employees of the bank are encouraged to take an active part in community projects, and her work on behalf of Medway spastics made her an ideal nominee for the Chief Executive's award.

As a result of the award, she will spend a month in the States next April seeing at first hand how the Americans approach the problems of caring for spastics. There she hopes to meet officials of The Spastics Society's transatlantic counterparts, the United Cerebral Palsy Associations and the United Cerebral Palsy Association of New York City (Inc.). She says that although she would be interested in visiting treatment centres, she feels that she has not sufficient medical knowledge to make a thorough study of this aspect. Therefore her chief sphere of interest will be in general organisation of services there, and in fund-raising methods.

"No" to round table on charity

MR. Frank Jull (Lab., Portsmouth W.), asked the Home Secretary in the Commons whether he would call a round table conference of charitable organisations to initiate a review of the role of charity in modern society, with particular reference to the legal definition of charity.

The Under-Secretary of State, Home Office, Mr. David Lane, replying in the negative, said that he understood that the National Council of Social Service had arranged to hold a conference on that subject in January, and the Home Secretary and he would be interested to hear the outcome.

The BOPPO Book

Written by Robert Cotton and lavishly illustrated by Cameron, the Boppo Book tells the exciting adventures of Boppo the Bear who escapes from the circus. There are also short stories, a game for two or more people using dice, and counters, plus other features. It's packed with 54 pages of fun and makes an ideal Christmas present for children of 4-10 years. At 75p the Boppo Book is a gift! Furthermore, every copy sold helps raise money for spastics. Don't miss your chance to get the Boppo Book. Simply complete the coupon, enclose money, and post today.

TO: The Assistant Director, Regions,
The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent,
London, W1N 4EQ

Please send me copy/copies of the Boppo Book, for which I enclose 75p for each copy ordered.

Name

Address

BUY THE BOPPO BOOK AND HELP RAISE MONEY FOR SPASTICS

The Boppo Book is also available from Top Ten Promotions, Westmorland House, P.O. Box 215, 104 Stokes Croft, Bristol BS99 7QX, or from your Local Group of The Spastics Society.





A wish comes true as, watched by his mother, Glenn pedals away on the special cycle built for him.
Picture by courtesy of the South Wales Argus

How kind hearts made Glenn's wish come true

THERE was nothing that 13-year-old Glenn Sullivan could do except look sadly after his friends as they raced away on their bikes. His parents had searched in vain for a specially adapted bike that Glenn, who is a spastic with limited use of his right side, could ride.

Then his mother, Mrs. Avril Sullivan, of Treberth Estate, Newport, Monmouthshire, picked up a copy of her local paper, the South Wales Argus. Inside was a story about the Newport Rotary Club's wish scheme.

"Glenn came in one afternoon and seemed a bit fed up. I asked what was wrong and he said all his friends had gone off on their bikes and left him. Then I noticed the wish scheme in the paper and thought it was worth a try," said Mrs. Sullivan.

And her shot in the dark led to the creation of a magnificent yellow three-wheeler named The Meteor. For the Rotarians asked the Argus to publicise Mrs. Sullivan's appeal, and within minutes of the paper being delivered to his door, cycle-shop dealer Mr. Edgar Hughes had offered his help. It took him three weeks of measuring Glenn, drawing

up ideas and testing them before the design was complete. And Mr. Hughes also made certain that the bike with its three wheels was designed so that it didn't stand out against Glenn's friends' bikes.

Glenn won't have all that long to ride on his bike—he is waiting to go into the St. Lawrence Hospital, Chepstow, for his fifth operation to try and improve the movement on his right side.

And Mr. Hughes has been asked by the Rotary Club to make another bike for the children at Llanfrecha Grange.

More please

DISABLED people who drop in for a pint at "The Carousel," a new pub in Liverpool, aren't there only for the beer, but the splendid purpose-built facilities as well. There are ramps, purpose-built toilets and specially designed wash-basins. On the junction of Myrtle and Chatham Streets, it is close to the University and a boon to disabled students.

Progress report by the MP who put law on side of disabled

ALF Morris is the man who levelled the terrace of the House of Commons. Now wheelchair-bound members can go anywhere they like in the rambling building unaided without a helping hand from anyone. And, as Mr. Morris pointed out: "If you can adapt a building as elderly as the Palace of Westminster, then there must be very few buildings that you can't adapt."

Mr. Morris, as Labour Member for Wythenshawe introduced the Private Members' Bill which was to bring new hope to the handicapped, headaches to local authorities, and alter the traditional architecture of every public building that has since gone on the drawing board.

The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act received the Royal Assent on May 29, 1970, but since such enormous changes as the Act provided for couldn't be made overnight, sections of it came into operation at different times in the months that followed.

New era?

This Autumn was effectively the third anniversary of the passing of the Act. Recently, Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society told a conference: "All of us associated with this Act thought a new era had begun—we are still waiting!" Mr. Morris's view of the Act's progress during its three years of life predictably has an ambience of parental concern.

In his tiny, windowless office he looked back to the time when he won first place in the annual ballot to present his own Bill. He had been in Parliament just six years and, statistically with over 600 Members in the House, M.P.'s only have a chance of winning every 500 to 600 years.

Last day

When the Speaker pulled Mr. Morris' name first out of the hat, Labour veteran Manny Shinwell who had been in the House since 1922 told him: "It wasn't your turn!"

Time was at a premium but nevertheless, the Bill was passed on the last day of the last Labour Government.

The implementation of some of the first sections to come into operation, have also been the most visible. These related to access to buildings both public and social. So every Town Hall, pub, club, University and shop that went on the drawing



Alfred Morris, M.P.

board after August 1970 has been designed to allow the disabled to make their exits and their entrances unaided. And there was provision for such modifications as handrails, wheelchair ramps, lifts and wider doorways to existing buildings.

It seems only right that the very place that the Act was passed making these provisions law should be an example of what can be done. The Earl of Dalkieth, who received paralysing spinal injuries as the result of a hunting accident, was the only Member of the Lower House confined to a wheelchair, however there are several in the Upper House and Mr. Morris listed them.

The Lords

"Lord Crawshaw, Lord Ingleby, Lady Masham, Baroness MacLeod and Lady D'Arcy de Knath". She is the youngest of the handicapped Peers and Peeresses and the most disabled, suffering multiple injuries in a car crash in 1964 which killed her husband. Changes to the Palace of Westminster, Mr. Morris pointed out, mean that they all have "a place of work that is wholly adapted to their needs as severely disabled people" as well as enabling handicapped visitors to the Houses of Parliament the access to which they are entitled.

Another section provided for orange parking discs to allow the disabled to park where other motorists feared to go, in any part of the country. "They have the same currency in John O'Groats as Land's End" said Mr. Morris although he was quick to point out that as an "English M.P." he would not have the temerity to demand legislation for Scotland.

He is proud that his Bill, originally passed as law in England and Wales, is now on the

It has been a massive shock to bureaucratic conscience. Said Mr. Morris: "There are still some black spots—councils who do not deliberately ignore the Act's requirements but flatter themselves that they are fulfilling them while all the evidence is that compared with the work of other councils, they are just not doing so".

Some have already been hammered by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Social Services and since their public dressing-down have pulled their weight. Some of course have always been in the vanguard of the move to treat the disabled with dignity.

Mr. Morris cites Manchester. If you are disabled and you live in Manchester you are likely to be a lot better off than your counterpart in Cornwall.

More "zest"

"There are some authorities which while not downright bad could apply the Act a little more 'zestfully'. Now Manchester—in less than two years has identified more than 9,000 NEW cases. This in a city of more than half a million people. Newcastle-on-Tyne have done a superb survey, Canterbury, formerly a black spot is now a very good authority".

The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons' Act was born, not before time, with the good wishes of every political party showered on its arrival. Its conception had been complicated—a dozen Ministries were involved but it started life wealthy, in good will and hard cash because a money resolution was voted with it.

Of course there were some people, a County Director of Social Services was one, who seemed to think, quite wrongly, that it was a Private Members' "Act" and therefore not quite as much a law as "Thou shalt not kill" which is also on the Statute Books.

But the Act which can be found under the heading "Chapter 44" in the 1969-70 session of Parliament is very much law—a law which is helping to make life richer, happier and more dignified for the 150,000 disabled who were unknown the day the Speaker drew the name of Alf Morris first out of the hat.

Liz Cook

Problem

But this of course has given rise to a new problem "Every-one knew there were about one and a half million severely disabled—but the local authorities could only account for about 235,000 cases. So there was the scandal of the missing million", Mr. Morris explained.

Section One was the last of the Act to come into operation, but since it did in October 1971 more than 150,000 new cases have been identified. Such as the 16-month-old suffering from a double gangrene amputation after a spina bifida birth. A mentally ill man suffering from agoraphobia (fear of open spaces) who had not been outside his house for 17 years. A skilled engineer who contracted meningitis abroad, lost his hearing and all his friends and became completely socially isolated. The Social Services departments are helping in each of these cases—if it had not been for the Act their suffering and that of the other 150,000 would still be going on.



PICTURED at the annual gala ball of the Preston and District Spastics Group are, left to right, Coun. Mrs. C. Sharples, J.P., Mayor of Preston; Dr. A. M. Korn, Chairman of Preston Spastics Group; Mr. Norman Douds, Ball Organiser; Miss Mary Holt, M.P., Preston North and Mr. Alan Green, M.P., Preston South.

The ball raised £590, bringing to over £2,000 the total proceeds from these events over the past five years.

Photo by courtesy of Lancashire Evening Telegraph

Cheque from bowlers

AT the ninth annual dinner of the North Norfolk Spastics Bowls League, a cheque for £342.50 was handed to Mr. George Howard, Secretary of the Norfolk and Norwich Spastic Association.

The money was made up with £275 from the bowls league, plus donations of £60 and £7.50 from local public houses.

During the evening Miss NANSAs, Rosemary Gower, presented trophies to winning teams in the league.

WEST CHESHIRE HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CHESTER CITY HOSPITAL SENIOR PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Applications are invited from suitably qualified Physiotherapists to work in an attractive purpose-built day nursery unit for mainly brain damaged children and also spina bifida children. Temporary residential accommodation is available if required.

Further information and application forms available from:

Group Superintendent Physiotherapist,
Chester Royal Infirmary,
St. Martin's Way,
Chester, CH1 2AZ.
Telephone Chester (STD 0244) 28261 Ext. 329



Splashes from the Spastics Pool

Early in November 200 supporters of the Spastics Pool flew out of Heathrow Airport on British Airways to spend seven days at the Corinthia Palace and Excelsior Hotels in Malta. The members had qualified for their Sovereign holidays by winning a prize in a special competition.

A welcoming cocktail party and a farewell banquet at the Corinthia Palace were included in the programme. Mr. Roy Laver, Director of Top Ten Promotions, and his wife were there to greet the

guests. Arrangements for the holiday were made by Ted Bartlett of Top Ten Travel, who supervised the departures from Heathrow Airport.

The week was so successful that a further 100 prize winners in a recent competition will be spending a week in Malta in March, 1974.

Picture, above, shows fifth from the left, Director Roy Laver with representatives of the Maltese Tourist Board and guests at the welcoming cocktail party in the Corinthia Palace Hotel.



A happy smile from Miss Marilyn Nye of Tamar Terrace, Tavistock Road, Launceston, as she receives a first dividend cheque for £1,160.42 from the Mayor of Launceston, Cllr. John Moore.



Congratulations for Mr. Peter Mclean of Aberdeen as he receives a cheque for £516 from Grampian T.V. announcer James Spankie. Picture also shows, from left to right, collector George Clark, Mrs. Sheila Mclean, and area supervisor William Johnston.



Definitely an occasion to celebrate with champagne for Mr. and Mrs. Ron Lilley after being presented with their Vauxhall Viva car by ex-Norwich footballer, Tony Bly. The presentation took place at F. P. Smith Motors, Peterborough, and our picture shows Mr. Haynes, Sales Manager, cracking a bottle of champagne.

JUMP THE QUEUE

DISABLED visitors to the Chinese Exhibition at the Royal Academy are being allowed at the front of the queue for the unique display. By taking the ramp at the main entrance hall and asking for the lift via the wheelchair route, tickets can be bought at the exhibition itself. Twenty-four hours' notice is required if a wheelchair has to be borrowed, and only disabled drivers can park in the Academy forecourt, otherwise disabled passengers can be set down at the door while the car is parked elsewhere.

A song and a laugh with the warders

A SONG, a joke and an evening of fun for everyone when the prison officers at Her Majesty's Remand Centre at Risley dropped their blue serge uniforms and donned their stage costumes to present their "Prison Officers' Roadshow". They staged it at Daresbury Hall, The Spastics Society's residential centre near Warrington, and £350 was raised for the centre's swimming pool fund.

Mrs. Sylvia Tickle, a member of the Staff and Friends

Social Club at the Hall, who works at the Remand Centre, organised the event.

"This was the second time that we have had the show which is made up of songs and comedy acts. The first time, in February, we raised £300 — now they say they will come and perform for us again after the New Year. I want to hold another one because I've set myself the target of raising £1,000!"

Society battles against inflation and shortages

THE Spastics Society has been badly hit by the spiral of inflation and general world shortages. It is not just that the public has less money to spare for charitable donations but the cost of providing necessary services to spastics has soared to an unprecedented level.

Never has life been more difficult for Mr. A. Mitchell, the Society's Supplies Officer who is fighting against heavy odds to maintain the usual flow of essential supplies to our schools and centres.

"Who can foresee what sort of prices are going to obtain four months from now?" he asks. "Or whether, in fact, even if you have the money, you will be able to buy what you want."

As far as stationery was concerned, he saw the writing on the wall some time ago and bought in advance a year's supply of bond and duplicating paper, now worth hundreds of pounds more than was paid for it. However, coloured papers are becoming increasingly difficult to obtain.

The world paper shortage is partly due, Mr. Mitchell points out, to heavy buying of wood pulp by West Germany, follow-

ing the re-valuation of the mark, and to purchases by the U.S.A. on a similar massive scale.

Modern typewriter ribbons, carbon paper, see-through folders and polythene storage bags are all made of plastics and have thus been affected by events in the Middle East — plastic being a by-product of oil.

Furniture, too, is presenting problems. School desks, tables and chairs are generally made of beech—nowadays imported probably from Yugoslavia—the cost of which has risen 40 per cent in recent months. But it is not easy to find suitable alternatives to wood. Steel has been in short supply for almost a year which has put up the price of tubular steel furniture and the same applies to Formica and other plastic products.

The linen cupboard has also been hit by VAT and galloping inflation. A standard bed sheet of the type used in hospitals has more than doubled its price in a year and blankets seem likely to do the same.

One of the greatest difficulties experienced by the Supplies Officer is the time-lag between ordering and delivery, with prices, naturally, geared to the later date.

Some chairs and coffee tables were ordered for one of the Society's hostels in November 1972. The chairs eventually arrived in June, but there is still no sign of the rest of the

order.

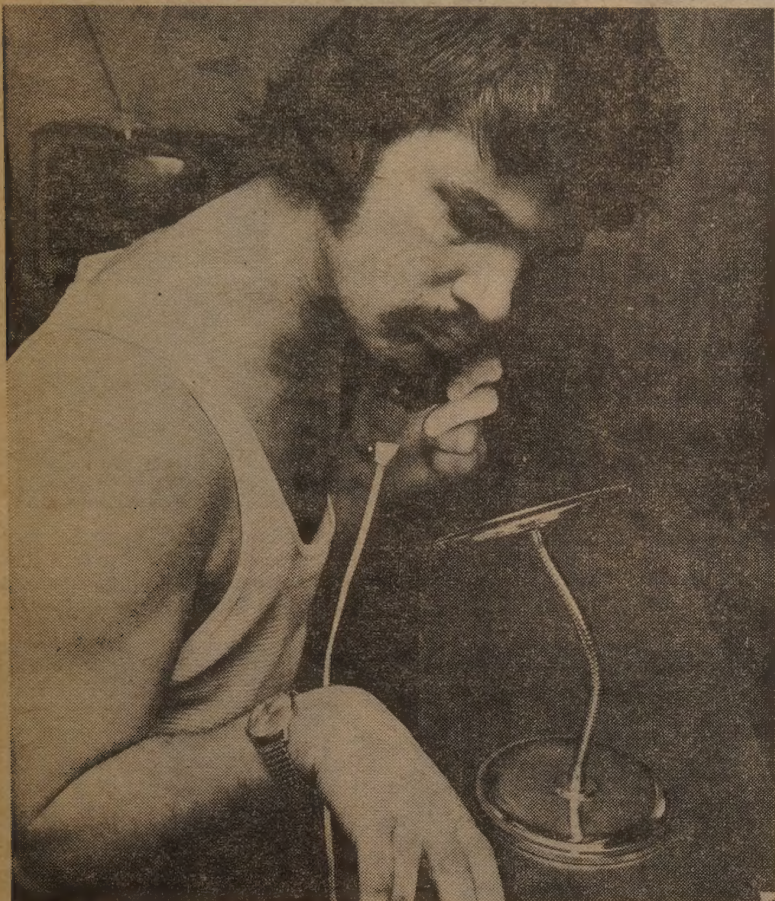
Special aids and equipment for handicapped people are becoming increasingly difficult to obtain. Even items produced in our own workshops such as the "Watford" potty chair made at the Princess Marina Centre in Buckinghamshire, are being held up by the high cost or shortage of raw materials. The situation is still worse with outside firms like those making the Multi-Variable Chair and large-size towelling napkins. Several companies with whom the Society once traded have now gone out of business, and new sources of supply have had to be found.

At present the Supplies Department is still able to meet requests for the popular "Baby Buggy" and "Buggy Major" chairs, but the makers are heavily committed.

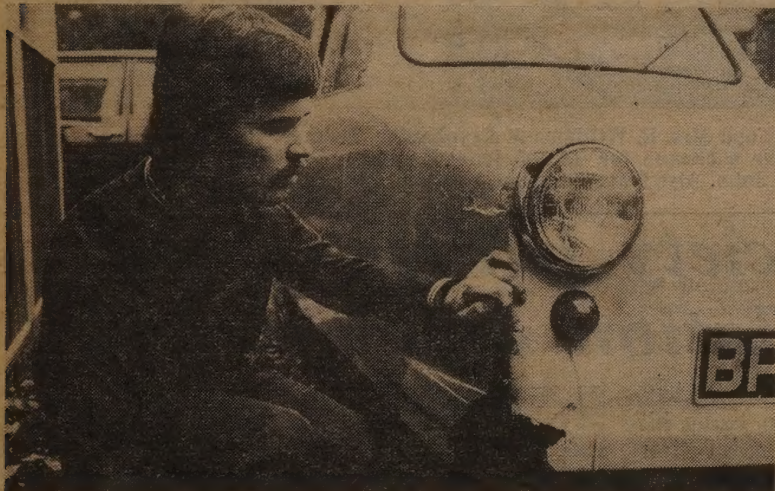
There is just one bright spark amid the general gloom. The Society's fuel oil contract has been extended, on terms which give a saving of over £2,000. So 44 customers are assured of supplies — the Arabs willing — until 1975.

"For this small mercy," says Mr. Mitchell, "we are extremely grateful."

Day in the life of a spastic



Graham Pearson is 29 and one of the country's 100,000 spastics. He earns his living and makes the most of his independence. Spastics News visited him at his parents' home and followed him through a typical day. Above: Graham starts the day with a shave in his bedroom. Right: Doreen Pearson with the son she was told to "Put in an institution and forget." Now she says: "We're terribly proud of his achievements".



Graham examines the memento of a recent journey — his invalid tricycle hit a drift of wet leaves and the brakes failed, sending him skidding across a busy trunk road — he is hoping to get an adapted Daf car soon.



A welcome tea-break in the afternoon for Patrick Gallagher, Eileen Tuckey, Michael Danes, Richard Thatcher and Graham.



His parents were told:

'Forget him'

THE Queen's Physician looked at George and Doreen Pearson's three-year-old son and said: "Put him in an institution, forget about him and have some more children." And added: "You can bring him back when he's seven if you like, but I assure you — he'll never walk!"

These days, just over 25 years later, Graham Pearson, now aged 29, does not just walk — he barely has enough time in the day to fit in all his interests and activities. For after putting in a full day at the Croydon and District Group's spastics work centre at Bramley Hill, Croydon, he has a whole range of outside interests to take care of his evenings. His mother laughingly complained: "He's never IN!"

There is his membership of the Disabled Drivers' Club, the Croydon Physically Handicapped and Able-bodied Club, the Disabled Swimmers' Club. And in addition to going swimming once a week, he goes riding each week at the riding school for the disabled at Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton, and also to the Coulsdon Folk Club which he enjoys, and the rest of the time . . . "I go for a drink at my local, the White Lion. I lead a pretty hectic social life."

Typical

Spastics News visited him at his parents' comfortable home in the prosperous stockbroker belt area of Warlingham in Surrey, to follow him through a typical day. Like spastics all over the country, he works for a living. Graham was educated at The Spastics Society's Grammar School, Thomas Delarue, and then went on to Sherrards Training

Centre run by the Society, before starting at Bramley Hill in 1964.

Said Graham: "I would like to get a job outside, but so far I haven't had much luck. I'm interested in computers, but my hand control isn't good enough for the amount of writing necessary."

He added: "I've never had a burning ambition to do any one thing."

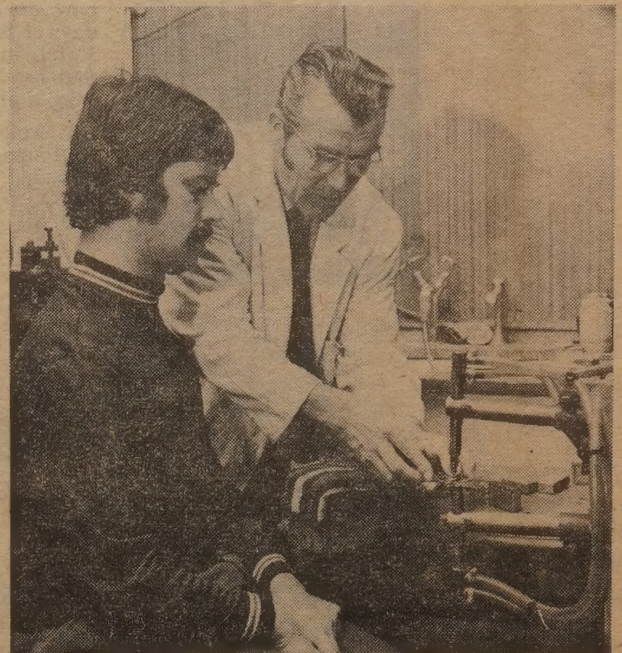
So far he is content to work at Bramley Hill, which is near his home. The fact that the Pearsons live in Croydon — where the first meeting which led to the formation of The Spastics Society was held — is not due just to lucky chance.

Mrs. Pearson, whose husband is a Management Consultant, explained: "Graham was born during the war just as the doodle-bugs started. My husband was away in the Forces, and I was living with my parents. Had it been today, of course, things would have been very different — Graham was lying transverse and then turned to breech, and I had him at home instead of being whisked away to hospital."

Like mothers of handicapped children everywhere, it was



Graham leaves the family home in Warlingham, Surrey, this morning for work.



Giving Graham a hand with some spot-welding is deputy work centre manager, Bert Strudwick.

Mrs. Pearson who guessed that all was not well with her baby, only to be told at first she was wrong by the medical profession.

"I took him to the doctor, who said 'Oh, he's just a fat baby,' but I pursued the matter until he suggested I took him to the ordinary clinic. The doctor there admitted there was something wrong, but couldn't put a finger on it."

Eventually an orthopaedic specialist made his pronouncement. "Only he used such technical terms that I hadn't a clue what he was talking about and had to look it up in dictionaries," Mrs. Pearson recalled.

The war ended, Mr. Pearson came home from the Army and the small family moved to Essex. There had been the exercises hopefully performed that might have done more harm than good, the trips to specialist after specialist in the hope of finding a miracle cure

— "the usual round," Mrs. Pearson called it. But in Essex they were to find a family doctor who was genuinely interested to help.

It was also at this time that the Pearsons made the trip to London to see the Queen's Physician.

"We had to wait an hour, and by the time we got in to see him, Graham was in an absolute panic. He was given all these tests — do this — pick up that, and he was frantic. Then came the advice that Graham should go into a home," I said. "How can you say this — he's our child — we love him!"

Their own doctor then put them in touch with another doctor, who changed the old harmful stretching treatment, and at last Graham was on the right path. A therapist who had been treating brain-injured fighter pilots worked "like mad" on him and by the time he was seven he was walking. "In the meantime we'd been



Home again and Graham improves the muscle tone of his legs with a few exercises on his rowing machine.



Graham, Surrey, round about 9.30 each work.



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Graham Pearson sinks a pint at the end of a busy day. Like most young men, he has a host of interests, driving, riding, swimming, folk music and so on.

making enquires about getting him into a school—that's when we heard of St. Margaret's School, Croydon. (St. Margaret's was the first ever school for spastics). So we thought we would move this way — it was a gamble because there was only a slim chance that we could get him accepted as a daily boy, but we took it and within three months he was in," Mrs. Pearson said.

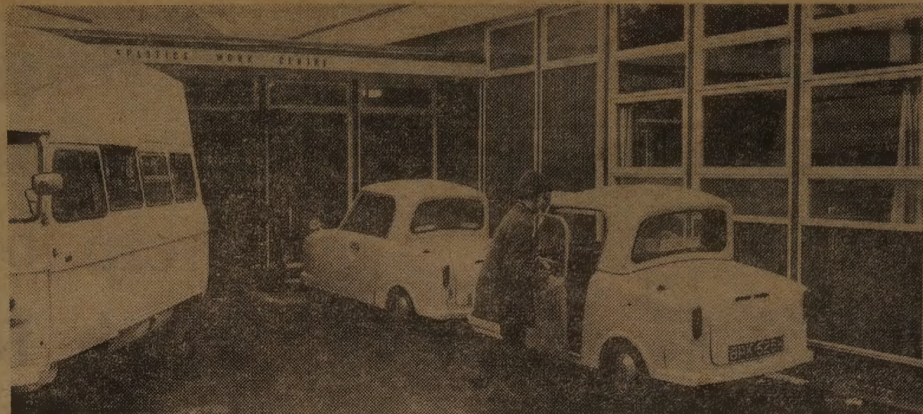
And about a month after that, the first of Graham's two brothers, Roger, was born. Roger is now 24, and a chemical engineer, while Jeremy, 18, goes into University next year to study mechanical engineering.

"We had all sorts of tests to make sure we weren't incompatible — because at that time absolutely nothing was known about the cause of spasticity," said Mrs. Pearson.

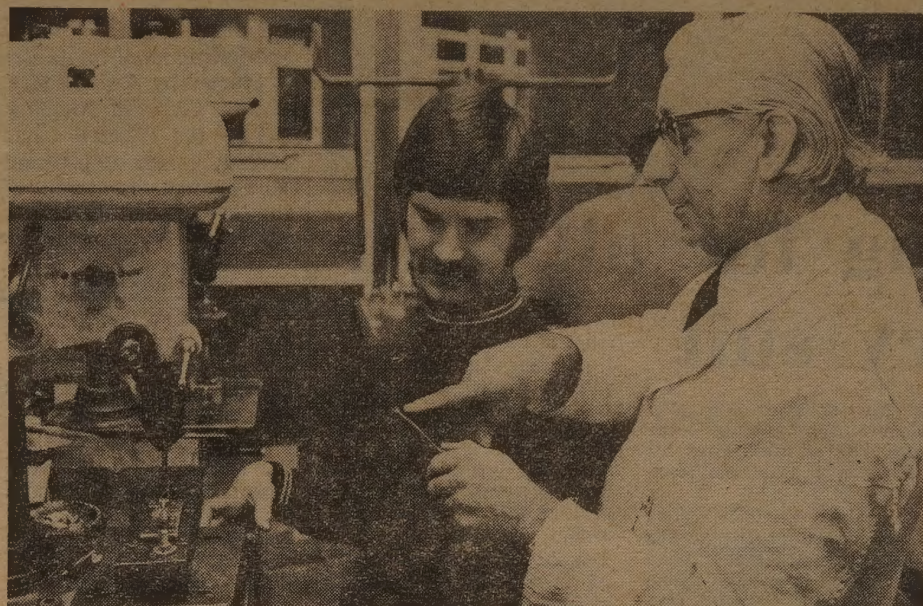
Determined

The Pearsons never gave into resentment over the accident of Graham's birth. "Truly my husband and I were just so determined to make Graham as normal as possible, that's all we thought about. We've never made any difference between him and his brothers. There's been the terrific achievement of getting him on his feet and coping for himself. We don't feel any terrible disappointment—just terribly proud of him."

One regret though: "I only wish The Spastics Society had started 30 years ago—we were so much in the dark and there were so many mistakes." One of Graham's regrets is that "People treat you differently. As far as I'm concerned, I want to be treated the same as everyone else, but some people are really stupid. I suppose it's



Graham arrives at the Bramley Hill Spastics Work Centre where he has been employed for the last nine years.



Graham prepares to operate the drill in the light engineering workshop as Jack Gooch, the Work Centre Manager, explains a point.

only ignorance, but they think you're a bit mental."

The working day at Bramley Hill is 10 a.m. till 4 p.m., and Graham leaves home around 9.30 a.m. to do the 15-20 minute journey.

He has been driving for years, first an electric invalid tricycle and, for the last three and a half years, a petrol version in which he's already done 16,525 miles.

Despite his experience he finds the hazards of having to drive the Ministry-approved vehicle "scary."

"Last month I set off and the trees had just started to shed their leaves. I wasn't far from home when I ran into a drift of wet leaves. I slid, the brakes wouldn't work, and I just went straight across the first lane of the busy Eastbourne road, hit a bollard and ended up facing the wrong way down the other carriageway—another car only just missed me."

There is not much parking

space at Bramley Hill, so it is just as well that Graham is only one of two drivers who work there — of his workmates, about a dozen come under their own steam on foot or by public transport, while the remainder travel in local authority service vehicles.

The 57 workers come from six local authority areas from South London to the borders of Surrey. They come from every sort of background and have a wide range of handicaps.

Most, like Graham, work in the light engineering section, although one room is engaged on handicraft work.

Bonus

The Work Centre manager, Jack Gooch, and his deputy, Bert Strudwick, direct the operations which bring in enough money to pay the workers' wages and a yearly bonus.

Mr. Gooch ran through the local industries who have contracts with the Centre. "We produced 1,600,000 parts last year and 800 articles from the craft room. We make valve bases for photo-copying machines, parts for Philips' TV sets, parts for the bases of salon hair dryers, and so on. Then there are the operating arms for optical measures. When people walk into a pub and ask for a Scotch or a gin, and the bartender pushes the glass up to the fitting round the upturned bottle, the chances are it came from here."

Graham can turn his hand to the various jobs done at Bramley Hill — fly pressing, drilling or spot welding.

And when the day's work is done it's off home to get ready to go out again. But if he feels like staying in for a change and doesn't want to watch the TV set in his room, he can always practice on his rowing machine.



Time 12.30, and its lunchtime at the Centre. The meal is served to Michael Danes (back to camera), Richard Thatcher, and Graham, by Mrs. Maisie Foley.

Spastic minister begins work in Glasgow

THE new assistant minister at St. Andrew's Parish Church, Drumchapel, Glasgow, starts off his vocation with a difficulty. He is a spastic.

The Rev. Graham Monteith is realistic about some of the difficulties, often small, always irritating, which his physical disability will cause. It is a

nuisance but, as he says, he'll get by.

"There will be a slight difficulty getting around the church itself and problems over the sacraments such as Baptism and Communion. At other times it's easier — it cuts both ways, you see," he says.

Born in Crookston, near Glasgow, Mr. Monteith says he was "terribly lucky" because his father was appointed headmaster of Ross High School, Tranent, not far from Edinburgh, which enabled him to attend the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics Weststerlea School in the city.

One problem that had to be faced was that of writing: apart from signing cheques and scribbling notes for himself, Graham cannot write. It was only through his mother's aid that he has managed to get so far in his profession. She has written everything to his dictation from his 'O' levels to his (in Scotland) 'Highers,' from his four years at Edinburgh University to a post-graduate dissertation, and three years at the University's theological faculty. This staggering achievement needs no comment.

After taking an Honours degree in Sociology and as a Bachelor of Divinity, Graham took up a scholarship offer from York University where, for a year, he studied the relationship of the Church to the Third World. It was during this period that he travelled to the Continent, where similar projects were under way, notably at the University of Louvain in Belgium.

To crown an outstanding academic career, Graham is not only starting his pastoral duties but has just learned that he has taken his Degree as Bachelor of Philosophy.

Dr. Firman is new President

DOCTOR Ronald Firman has been elected as the new President of the Association of '62 Clubs, upon the retirement of Mr. Bill Hargreaves from the post.

Dr. Firman, a lecturer and consultant geologist at the University of Birmingham, has been associated with the '62 Clubs almost since the movement began, 11 years ago, and has been a Vice-Chairman of the Association, which is run entirely by the spastic members themselves. He has also served as Vice-Chairman of the Services Committee of The Spastics Society.

Married, with three children, Dr. Firman leads a very active life. He travels widely in his job both in this country and overseas.

His wide experience will bring a new dimension to the '62 Club movement, and his new appointment will undoubtedly be popular with the 36 member clubs of the Association.

Retiring President Bill Hargreaves, who founded the '62 Clubs, still, of course, retains his position as the Society's Senior Clubs and Holidays Officer.

An anonymous donor has sent two £10 postal orders to The Spastics Society with the request that the only acknowledgment is a line in the Rochdale Observer's personal column to say "Thank you."

Planning now for Christmas

DECORATED Christmas trees, carol singers, frosted windows, warming firesides, pantomimes, a lot of cooking, heavy shopping baskets, last-minute rushes to send off cards to forgotten relatives, stopping the children from getting over-excited, having friends and family around you... that is how we think of December.

But Mums tend to worry about the shopping and the cooking, knowing that the bulk of the responsibility will fall on their shoulders. Order early to make life easier.

Go to your butcher and say what you want in the way of poultry and meat; order the British and Ulster ham, the Stilton cheese and other goodies from the grocer; tell the milkman how much milk and fresh cream you will need over Christmas; that'll take a load off your mind.

Home-grown apples and pears can be bought a few days in advance, just keep them in a cool temperature until they are going to be needed; hide 'em away from the children though, otherwise you'll probably have to go out and get another lot!

Root vegetables can be purchased a few days ahead of when needed; potatoes actually will store for weeks if you look after them properly. That will ease the work load and help to avoid last-minute panics.

Actually, December is not a bad month from a shopping point of view. Salad-stuffs are proscribed, but you can still enjoy some. Lettuce, watercress, salad cress, beetroots, provide a basis, and imagination can add the frills. Try beetroot with grated horse-radish; add chopped raw onion with celery to grated carrot; finely slice uncooked button mushrooms for a mixed salad... then why not add nuts and fresh fruit?

Vegetables are good, root crops plentiful and greenstuffs sound. Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, are all to be depended upon, and when you feel like something different try Jerusalem artichokes or celeriac.

Home-produced meat is of high quality, with superb joints coming into the shops for the Christmas demand. Poultry, whether it be oven-ready, chilled or fresh-plucked, will be abundant. But don't leave it until the last moment! You cannot cook a frozen turkey, and if you fail to order in advance you might not get the size or kind of fresh-plucked bird you want.

Anyway, enjoy all the happy things about December and, when you feel tired, sit down and relax, your family won't starve...

Working to aid hospital patients

THE Spastics Society's counterpart in New Zealand is known as the Adult Cerebral Palsy Society (Inc.). This organisation was formed in 1958 and functioned for a number of years with a limited membership, only able to provide an occasional social gathering for the handicapped.

However, in 1965, the society was bequeathed a house and some land which was converted

New Zealand

into a Hostel with the help of 10,000 dollars raised by the Canterbury University Students' Annual Street Appeal.

The Hostel, opened in 1967, provides a short-stay home for adult cerebral palsy sufferers whose parents need a break. Guests are generally allowed to stay only for a month, although they may make several visits during one year.

The Adult Cerebral Palsy Society of New Zealand is also involved with the Health Department and the Disablement Re-Establishment League in a pioneer scheme to help long-term hospital patients adjust to the outside world.

Spastic patients discharged from Templeton Hospital and Training Centre can live at a hostel known as Independence House, from where they can go out to work daily, either at the Disablement Re-Establishment League Workshops or at local factories. In the evenings and at weekends they assist with household chores at the hostel and after receiving their discharge from the Health Department, move on to private board, becoming full citizens of the community.

World news round-up



Swimming for all with buoyancy suit

HANDICAPPED non-swimmers can now float by themselves by means of an Australian-designed inflatable swimsuit.

Designed by Ronald Siddons, an inspector at Cronulla surfing beach, near Sydney, the final product has been marketed after two years of experiments.

The buoyancy afforded by the suit gives handicap-

ped people confidence to use their arms and legs in a way that would be otherwise impossible.

Australia

The one-piece swimsuits are designed on the lines of a racing costume with narrow shoulder straps and a low back-

line. They are made of brightly-colored Bri-nylon tricot — the same type of fabric used for the Olympic swimmers' costumes.

A separate inflatable section is integrated between the double layered front of the costume and is made of nylon-based neophrene treated material. The inset is inflated by means of a small rubber tube-shaped mouthpiece fitted with a toggle.

The amount of air can be controlled through the toggle valve, and it takes only a few seconds to inflate the suit.

There is a separate horse-shoe-shaped collar, similarly inflatable, which can be fitted with press studs or lacing to the neckline of the suit. With this neckpiece fitted, it is virtually impossible for the wearer to sink or get into difficulties.

The suits will support heavy adults as well as children and

have been made in a wide range of sizes.

The inflatable suit, together with the collar, is about 20 Australian dollars, while the costume alone, minus the collar, is priced at about 12 dollars. They are available from the manufacturers, Speedo Knitting Mills of Artamon, Sydney, Australia.

Ronald Siddons, designer of the new inflatable swimsuit, demonstrates his invention with spastic and other physically handicapped children.

Where people are too poor to give help or "too rich to care"

THERE is hope at last for the huge number of spastic children in India. To date the Government has provided no schools or specialist facilities for the estimated half million cerebral palsy victims but now an Indian Spastics Society has been formed which is modelling itself on its British equivalent.

Started by Mr. and Mrs. Ranjit Chib in October 1972, the Society has already raised £9,000 and has enlisted the help of the Government. Mr. Chib,

Walk. Now back in India there is nowhere for her to go.

Like the British society, the Indian organisation was started by frustrated parents who decided to take the matter of looking after the handicapped into their own hands following the failure of the Government to provide services.

A provocative article by Mrs. Chib in a Bombay magazine produced two hundred letters offering help. The Spastics Society was formed and set about raising money immediately. They staged a film premiere of "David Copperfield" and raised £9,000.

Next they went to Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi who told the local State Governor to give them all the help possible. The first school is about to be set up in a temporary residence loaned by the Army.

Mr. Chib came to London to get advice from our own Society and collected books, a subscription to Spastics News, Appeals and Publicity information and ideas.

"The problem is that raising a large sum is not enough. You have to keep the money flowing in", Mr. Chib observed, "We will probably copy a lot of the successful British ideas though our problems are different in many ways".

According to Mr. Chib most people in India are too poor to be able to give any help or "too rich to care". It appears that the middle classes are small and will have to bear the main burden until the Government see fit to give grants.

"We are also hoping", he continued "that Indian people in Britain may give us some help. But we don't only need money — we need trained staff as well. Perhaps ex-patriate teachers of handicapped children might be willing to return."

"Whatever happens we have a massive job to do. We do not really know how many spastics there are and even if we did many could not be reached and at the moment there are very few we can help".

India

a former accountant and now full-time Treasurer of the Indian Society, visited The Spastics Society in London in September.

"In a country where we can't even look after the normal children and where many people are starving — the handicapped are at the bottom of the social ladder" Mr. Chib explained. "My own daughter Malini, aged six, was lucky enough to go to a British school — Cheyne

Survey probes travel needs of disabled

TORONTO and Ottawa public authorities are pioneering a scheme to make life easier for the disabled when it comes to travelling on public transport.

In Toronto an advertisement was widely displayed of a survey on transportation for the physically handicapped. All those living in the city who were confined to wheelchairs or physically unable to use the standard buses were asked to fill in the questionnaire.

They were asked whether or not they were employed, and, if not,

by bus, tube or train, are also being investigated by the Department of the Environment. A circular has been issued to local authorities calling special attention to the positioning of bus-steps, handrails, bell pushes, seating and so on. British Leyland who make many of Britain's buses is already investigating the possibilities of simplifying bus design. Tests have been carried out on a mock bus with a team of elderly and infirm volunteers.

The circular also draws attention to the plight of the wheelchair bound who cannot use the Underground unless there are lifts to the platform and who have to travel in the guard's van of British Rail trains.

Canada

would low cost public transport enable them to take a job; whether or not they travelled with an escort, and also the times of any principal non-work trips such as visits to therapy clinics.

The idea behind the survey is to determine the needs of all Toronto's disabled citizens and cater for them. Initially, however, priority will be given to those in wheelchairs or with physical disabilities. The pilot project of special bus services would be geared for those who are working or would if they could, and then, if the plan was successful, it would be extended to off-peak hours.

The needs of the British disabled when it comes to travel

Lesley's independence gift



MISS Lesley Smith, 25, of Skegness, Lincolnshire, is a severely-handicapped spastic, unable to walk at all. But now, for the first time in her life, she has been able to achieve a measure of independence through the gift of a Chairmobile, the electronic wheelchair designed by Lord Snowden.

The Chairmobile was one of many which have been presented to disabled people all over the country by the Grand Order of Water Rats. Lesley's chair was first of all offered to the Skegness Rotary Club,

which had undertaken to find someone in the area who could use it. The Rotary Club will now be responsible for maintaining the chair.

At a special presentation ceremony in the Arcadia Centre Theatre, Skegness, the equipment was handed over to Lesley by Mr. Terry Cantor, producer of the current show at the theatre, on behalf of the Water Rats.

She was able to work the controls almost immediately, unlike those of an electrically-powered Ministry wheelchair issued to her sometime ago.

This, after a series of frustrations and delays, proved to be completely useless and has now been returned to the Ministry.

Picture shows Lesley in the new Chairmobile. Standing in the background are, left to right, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Terry Cantor, Mr. Smith, Councillor Richard Scupholme, Rotary President and Chairman of the East Lincolnshire Arts Centre Mr. Herbert Oliver, and Mr. Eric Rawlings, Vice-Presidents of Skegness Rotary Club.

Photo by courtesy of Wrate's Studio, Skegness

Sharon's winning ways

SHARON Parker is not yet a year old, but she is a winner where her family is concerned.

Her mother, Mrs. Judy Parker is a spastic and a member of the Lancaster, Morecambe and District Spastics Society. Earlier this year, the Society held a draw for a holiday donated by Pontins, Ltd, at Blackpool. The original recipient decided to return the prize and it was awarded to Mrs. Parker and her family.

This autumn, Mr. and Mrs. Parker, Sharon and her elder sister Tracy, aged

nine, took the holiday and Sharon won the beautiful baby competition. Her prize was a £1 and a place in the final, and that meant an extra weekend at the holiday camp.

A couple of weeks ago Sharon and her family returned for the finals of the contest, and although she didn't win again she is still a bonny babe.

The Lancaster, Morecambe and District Spastics Society provided the family with transport to and from the holiday camp in their Sunshine coach on both occasions.



Doncaster & District Spastics Society's Annual Bazaar provided a foretaste of Christmas for these children. They are, left to right, Simon Kidd (9), Amanda Garden (9), Neil Terry (6) and Ruth Terry (8). The soft toy was a prize in one of the competitions.

Picture by courtesy of Doncaster Gazette and Chronicle

Achievement Award: So many stories of quiet courage

Old Delaruvians hold reunion

THE Old Delaruvian Association members have held their annual reunion at the Society's Thomas Delarue School. The school "came of age" this year, and the 18-year age gap between the oldest and youngest members was made obvious when two members discovered that the one had come to Delarue at the same time as the other was born.

About 30 members attended and, as usual, everybody enjoyed the main events of the week-end — coffee with the staff, the reunion dinner, and the film show. Discussions during the annual general meeting became very enthusiastic, but always an atmosphere of friendliness prevailed.

Members were very pleased to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Delarue as guests to the reunion dinner and, of course, most grateful to the school's staff who made it possible for the reunion to be held.

MOST people in Europe know a bit about Britain's National Health Service, but the British know relatively little, as a rule, about other countries' health services.

A series of seminars have been held at the King's Fund Centre in London looking at various countries' health services, and the latest, on January 8, will deal with that of Germany.

THE Achievement Award lists have closed with many hundreds of nominations. They came from all over the country and from all kinds of people. Neatly written, precise and accurate proposals from the Principals of Universities and Colleges, moving little notes on scraps of paper from proud grannies, and even letters from spastics nominating other spastics.

Everyone seems to know a spastic worthy of winning the £250 prize money and silver cup for the most outstanding achievement of the year.

Mrs. Nina Heycock, who is organising the award on behalf of The Spastics Society, said: "Some of the nominations have been quite heart-rending. They show so much quiet courage. It is only a pity that we cannot give everyone an award."

The judges, who will be meeting in the New Year to try and decide on the winner, have all themselves known a measure of trial and hardship. Sir. Geoffrey Jackson, the

British Ambassador, who was a prisoner of guerillas for eight months, became so interested in the Award when he was a judge last year that he is judging again; Baroness Macleod, widow of the former Tory Chancellor, who is herself confined to a wheelchair; Jack Ashley, the M.P. who suddenly lost his hearing; and the racing driver, Graham Hill, who works hard for the Disabled Drivers' Action Group, and was once hospitalised for a long time after a serious racing accident.

Mrs. Heycock explained: "You know, the judges all feel very honoured to be asked if they can take part in the judging."

Amongst the nominations have been three exquisite examples of embroidery from a work centre. One piece had taken a 56-year-old woman many years to produce, another cloth came from a heavily handicapped man, and a girl embroidered a scarf.

Open University and the disabled

THE ways in which the Open University can help disabled people who want to study for a degree were outlined at a conference on the Disabled Student in Higher Education at the Great Hall of Imperial College, Westminster, on November 20.

"From its early days the Open

University realised that it could meet the higher educational needs of disabled students who were effectively excluded from the national system," said Mr. Geoffrey Tudor, the University's Senior Counsellor for the Disabled, in a paper read to the conference.

Mr. Tudor mentioned the importance of society not forgetting the individual's need, his uniqueness and his value. "In the Open University the work being done for, and with, disabled students helps cultivate this awareness."

Over £4,000 raised at pigeon auction

THE Spastics Society's great pigeon auction at Islington Town Hall on Saturday, November 10, was a success. Over £4,000 was raised, and many more people were introduced to the Society's work.

About 300 pigeon fanciers turned up despite the rain and the Lord Mayor's Procession, and the auction began in the morning with the official opening by European Heavyweight Boxing Champion Joe Bugner, who urged those present to spend generously.

Joe auctioned some boxing gloves he had autographed, and raised £37 for the first pair. Then auction maestro Frank Hall began selling the 134 donated pigeons.

Biggest individual sale of the afternoon was a pigeon which sold for £145.

There was a grand draw which had some unusual prizes such as a pigeon first aid kit and plenty of bags of pigeon food.

The auction was organised jointly by Mr. Peter Jordan, the Society's Head of Appeals Projects, and Mr. Frank Hall, who is a well known pigeon expert and auctioneer.



The hands that can smash an opponent's face to pulp provide a soft landing for this prize pigeon. Joe Bugner in a gentle mood to open The Spastics Society's Pigeon Auction. Below: Marie Hale sends Joe Bugner a Good Luck telegram before each of his fights, and they met for the first time at the auction. She runs the "Hare and Hounds" public house opposite Islington Town Hall, where the auction was held, so naturally there were refreshments all round at the end of the day.



Remember the 'not so lucky'

NEWSPAPERS have given wide coverage to the Christmas Appeal letter from The Spastics Society's Director, James Loring, which makes an eloquent plea for the nation's parents to remember the "not so lucky" children. He wrote:

Most parents, when planning for Christmas, look forward to giving their children presents that will add to their pleasure and enjoyment.

There are, however, many children to whom a Christmas gift could mean so very much more — in fact, their only chance of being able to live a comparatively normal life. These are the thousands of spastic children, the unlucky ones who do not live near enough to a spastics treatment centre to get the skilled care they urgently need.

They could be helped if only we had the money to build one of these centres in every large town or city. We have already built 30, but the need is even greater if these children are to have any chance of taking their place with others more fortunate.

May I ask your readers to help us to give thousands of spastic under-fives the most vitally important gift they could ever receive, the hope of a better, more normal life, by buying The Spastics Society's Christmas Cards, stamps and gifts, or by sending us a donation. Their generous support would mean so much to these children who cannot help themselves.

The Duchess of Norfolk will attend the Brighton, Hove and District Spastics Society Christmas coffee morning at Hamilton House, the Brighton Centre.

Merrily busy at Spastics Cards

THEY are all set for a Merry Christmas at Spastics Cards Ltd. There is a room in the building at Iver, Bucks., where the firm's directors, Herbert Palmer, James Loring and Derek Lancaster-Gaye, hold meetings to decide vital future policy. In between times the room acts as an office where General Manager Ron Butterfield and his staff are already planning design ranges for Christmas 1974.

The rest of the building is a hive of activity where staff are dealing with about 800 orders a day for this Christmas. Spastics Christmas cards are

Picture, left: Beverly Mears making up an order during the evening shift.

proving so popular again this year that it has been necessary to work an evening shift in the despatch warehouse.

Spastics Cards employs 25 permanent workers, and this total builds up to 60 at Christmas time. Our picture was taken on the evening shift (6 p.m. - 10 p.m.) at the peak of the year's activities on a Thursday evening late in November.

On the same day, Spastics Cards had just placed their last print order with Meadway Works, the Society's Sheltered Workshop in Birmingham, where up to 30 spastics are kept busy printing the colourful designs.

Meadway will pull out all stops to print and deliver this last order of 25,000 cards in 10 days and so bring their total printing to almost two million out of the eight million cards sold this year.

Orders for Christmas food hampers, which are not despatched from Iver, are very brisk at the moment. This is the first year that the firm has handled these, and Mr. Butterfield says they will certainly continue the range in future years as it has become a very profitable venture which is proving popular with the customers.

The supply of other types of gift has been subject to delays owing to prevailing world shortages.



Curtain-up on the literary contest for spastics



MAILBOX
I AM a regular subscriber to Spastics News and enjoy its contents, but I feel something is missing, and that something is news of the Leicester Adult Spastics Club.

This, I admit, is entirely our fault and I hope to rectify this situation by sending news of our club activities.

Last year we decided to hold a dinner as an experiment. This was so successful we decided to make it an annual event. This year we booked at a well-known local establishment for 40 of us. We had a super time and just managed to stay sober.

This is just one of many activities that our club enjoys. We meet every other Wednesday evening at 7.30 at Bader House. Anyone in Leicester reading this article who is not already a member of the Adult Spastics Club is invited to join us. I can assure you of a very big welcome.

ROGER.
30 Anstey Lane,
Leicester, LE4 0FA.

The Editor is always delighted to receive news of organisations for spastics, and activities and events arranged on their behalf.

A spastics shop in Weybridge, Surrey, made a profit of £4,800 in just over four months of operation. The shop was run by North West Surrey Spastics Group in aid of White Lodge Spastics Centre, Chertsey.

Get your pens and pencils ready, dust the typewriter, or start persuading someone to give you a hand — here we go again with our annual smash hit, the literary contest for spastics — now getting into its swing for the fourth consecutive year.

All through the summer we have been receiving enquiries about the starting date, and quite a number of people have told us that they are looking forward to having another go this year. Well, everybody, here's your chance.

A new contest, some new judges (we'll be telling you more about them later), and that very important day during Spastics Week when the lucky winners in each section will attend a celebration lunch in London. This will be followed by a reception at The Spastics Society's headquarters in Park Crescent, where they will receive their prizes.

We are delighted to tell you that once again Mrs. Harold Wilson will judge the poetry section and also present the prizes, and we are very grateful to her for her continued help and interest in the contest.

There will be cash prizes for the best entries in several categories — school children up to the age of 16; young adults 17-25; and the over 25's. There is a special section for poetry which is open to all ages, and you can submit as many entries as you wish.

You can choose your own subject to write about — fact or fiction; a secret dream or something that actually happened; a pet hate or an ambition realised. You can be humorous, imaginative, nostalgic, romantic, informative, or you can re-arrange the world — on paper, anyway.

In the past years we've had

entries from five-year-olds, right through to senior citizens (our oldest entrant was a venerable gentleman of 78), and we've had everything from a three-line verse to a four-act play, from a dream sequence to an interview with a wrestler, from childhood memories of life in a Welsh mountain village to the wildest science fiction exploits. One of the funniest entries was a blow-by-blow account of a visit to a dentist — and if you can see the humorous side of that you are more than just a writer — you're a hero, or heroine.

Don't be discouraged by the

The address of the Family Fund, set up by the Government to aid parents of congenitally handicapped children, is Beverley House, Skipton Road, York, YO3 6RB. The Fund, which has £3m. to spend, is complaining that not enough people are asking for its help.

fact that you did not have any luck with entries in previous contests. Our first prize winner in one section of the last contest made it on his third try — the first year he was not placed, the second year he got a "commended," and the third time round he hit the jackpot.

The contest begins on Saturday, December 1st, 1973, and closing date for entries is Thursday, February 28th, 1974. Entry forms and full details can be obtained from Spastics News or direct from Mrs. Nina Heycock, 88/89 Queen's Gate, South Kensington, London, SW7 5AA, who is organising the contest for The Spastics Society.

Director criticises paper tiger

"THE Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act has proved to be a paper tiger," said Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society. He was speaking at a one-day conference organised by the British Association for the Retarded at the Albany Hotel, Nottingham, on Wednesday, November 21.

Although the initial psychological impact was excellent, the effect had worn off. Local Authorities who had previously provided good facilities for the handicapped were continuing to do so, but the moderately effective and the ineffective Local Authorities were doing very little more than before.

What was needed was new legislation which would give the central Government departments mandatory powers and additional monies to implement them. There was an urgent need to appoint a Minister in this field who would co-ordinate services for the handicapped. A Ministry for the Handicapped was not required, but rather leadership at the highest possible level.

"I appeal to all Local Authorities," said Mr. Loring, "to include substantial sums of money for expenditure on services for the handicapped in their 1974/75 budgets, even if it means increases in the rates."

For the past six years Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Buttriss, whose son Edward has been a resident for 10 years of Daresbury Hall, The Spastics Society's centre near Warrington, have been organising Autumn sales and tombolas at the home.

This year they raised £178 towards the swimming pool fund, which brings their total for the six years to £466.52.

An Autumn market organised by Chesterfield and District Spastics Society, Derbyshire, brought in £220 for group funds.



Eric Boon

Ex-champ enters the fund raising arena

ERIC Boon used to be known to the fight fans as the blacksmith with the hammer in his hands. These days the former British lightweight champion has a more peaceful mission in life — an aim to raise £5,000 for The Spastics Society. And he is travelling the country with a 90-minute programme of old fight films to show round the working men's clubs.

"It fits in well with my job as a sales representative and, since there are 4,006 clubs in the National Union of Working Men's Clubs, I should keep busy for some time yet."

Eric is now a fit 53, living in a centuries-old thatched cottage near Newmarket.

The crowds flocked to cheer him when, as an 18-year-old, he won the British title. And his first defence of it is remembered as one of the most famous title bouts ever — a bloody and bruising 14 rounds. He defeated another contender to make the title indisputably his own in 1939, and was to remain champion for most of the war.

He recalled the fight that took the title from him. On a serviceman's diet he had risen to 11 st. 3 lb., and he had 13 days to get his weight down. He managed it — and reduced to 9 st. 9 lb., although he fainted three times before the weigh-in. And he still managed to go 10 rounds before his defeat.

His fists not only earned him fame and popularity, but good hard cash, too.

He remembered: "People say I made half a million. Maybe it was pretty close. I was getting £3,500 for some of my fights and I had 438 of them. That was apart from the £250 a week I was getting on the variety stage. And there was

£9,000 I earned in three fights in South Africa."

Eric weighs 9 st. 13 lb. — four pounds over the championship limit — and cannot resist contemplating what he would have done with today's heroes of the boxing ring.

But adds that he has no complaints: "We've the most marvellous crowd of friends, and I find it a pleasure meeting my customers. I think an awful lot of it stems from my experiences in boxing. That's why I say: 'Thank God for the fight game.'"

Picture by courtesy of Photographers International

It was a big day for them all

FREDDY Garrety, formerly of Freddy and the Dreamers, gave a charity show for the disabled on 14th November at Morecambe Bowl, which was attended by several trainees from The Spastics Society's Lancaster Training Centre.

As well as being The wedding day, it was Freddy's birthday and during the performance he was presented with a huge cake in honour of the occasion.

The Lancaster trainees were left behind in the rush for autographs after the show, but a member of the staff accompanying them managed to get a word with the star. As a result, Freddy not only signed for all the trainees, but gave them his birthday cake, too.

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An extra £108 per annum will be paid for nursing qualifications.

Application forms and details obtainable from the Director of Social Services, Solway House, Aytoun Street, Manchester M13ET. Closing date 12th December, 1973.

Preference will be given to Local Government Employees.



When you can't hop on a bus...

THE problems facing disabled travellers on public transport have been spotlighted in a recent circular from the Department of the Environment. In it, Mr. John Peyton, Minister for Transport Industries, urges public transport operators and vehicle manufacturers to remember the needs of Britain's 1½ million disabled when planning new vehicles.

Although the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 has had some effect on the design of new bus garages, railway stations, air and sea ports, there were problems about applying the Act to moving transport. But, says the circular, the spirit of the legislation should be applied, and the Department of the Environment has made a thorough review of the situation.

On the bus

The paragraphs on "Travel by Bus" cover such items as steps, handrails and bell pushes, fare collection, allocation of special seating for the disabled and storage space for wheelchairs. The train section includes handrails and easy-access seating. London Transport trains are praised for their wide doors and floors level with the platform, but in many cases these advantages are cancelled out by access problems at underground stations.

The circular points out that anybody temporarily incapacitated by luggage, pregnancy or small children may find difficulty in negotiating public transport, and therefore modifications in vehicle design will ultimately benefit the popula-

tion as a whole, thus attracting more custom.

The Department admits that none of the disabled travellers' problems can be made to disappear overnight, but recommends closer co-operation with representatives of the disabled at the research and development stage of transport design.

Colin-the cycling collector

ONE of the best collectors for the Norfolk and Norwich Spastic Association is Mr. Colin Websdell, a spastic worker at the Norwich Spastics Work Centre run by the Association. He collected the money by house to house collections in a town and four villages within a 10-mile radius of his home in Pulham Market, South Norfolk.

This is the third year that Mr. Websdell has done this collection on his bicycle, increasing the sum each year. He raised over £20 the first year, £86 the second year, and £117 currently.

The money will be used towards the running costs of the work centre, which are in excess of £15,000 per year. Over 40 male and female spastic workers are employed there on sub-contract work ranging from delicate electronic assembly to drilling heavy ploughshares. Mr. Websdell is engaged currently at the end of a production line operating a compressed air system which fixes wads in plastic screw tops for gallon containers.

Willing helpers for boat building project

THE old stableyard at Westerlea Residential School for Spastics in Edinburgh has taken on a new role. Instead of ringing with the sound of horses' hooves it resounds to hammers on steel, for it is now a boat yard.

The school janitor, Mr. Fred Moss comes from a line of sea captains and is a keen sailor man himself. He and his wife owned first a life boat and then a fibre glass boat which they sailed from the Forth to the Thames and then toured the English canals.

"On our return" said Mr. Moss "I thought it would be good to build a boat to our own specifications, so I just started in the yard by myself. That was in July and I hope to have it finished by the spring.

"I was stuck for a bit because of the shortage of steel plates but that's over now and I don't expect any more hold-ups".

Mr. Moss certainly has a willing work force. Students at the school regularly give a hand to help the sailing cruiser take shape.

Mr. Fred Moss, janitor of the Westerlea School for Spastics Edinburgh, in the bow of his boat which he and students of the school are building.

Picture by courtesy of Roderick Dumbreck.

Urgent help needed so Scots will spend £1½ million

BUILDING work on three schemes at Perth, Edinburgh and Erskine New Town, totalling more than £1,500,000, are at various planning stages and should start within the next 12 months, it was announced at the annual general meeting of the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics in Edinburgh on November 20th.

Mr. Archie McConnochie, Chairman of the Council's Executive Committee, said that because of the urgent need to provide more help for spastics, particularly adults, the Council had decided to go ahead quickly, despite mounting inflationary pressures and high interest rates.

The extreme generosity of the Gannochy Trustees in giving £500,000, to be spread over three to four years, would enable the Council to start building apartment dwellings with associated work and community centres on land in Perth, also provided by the Trustees. This project would not be confined to spastics, but would serve all categories of the physically handicapped who were capable of semi-independent living.

"With the now very high costs of building, the completed project will be far in excess of the £500,000 offered

and in due course an appeal will be launched to raise additional funds," said Mr. McConnochie.

In Edinburgh a new Trinity Centre would be built at Restalrig. The centre would be comprehensive and provide day-care, occupational work, and "sheltered" units. Initially, at least, the sheltered workshop would consist of the existing St. Jude's Laundry, transferred from the Council's headquarters in Corstorphine Road.

Unfortunately, while blessing the project, Edinburgh Corporation had been unable to offer capital grant aid or a loan. Accordingly, the Council was now seeking a loan elsewhere and would subsequently back this by launching another appeal.

The third major project would be the transfer of the present unsuitable Westlands Hostel, Paisley, for male workers attending the Hillington Work Centre, to a new site at Erskine New Town. The build-

ing was being designed to house 30 men and 12 women, compared with an all-male capacity of 20 at Westlands.

In addition, the Habilitation Unit and Work Centre at Hillington would be moving in the early months of the New Year to up-dated and larger premises on the same industrial estate. It would accommodate substantially more workers than the present centre, which could accommodate only 100.

Mr. McConnochie paid particular tribute to the work of the Stars Organisation for Spastics (Scotland), which had raised considerable sums of money, and to the directors, workers and supporters of the Spastics Pool who had continued to provide tremendous financial support.

"But I regret that so many younger people are not coming forward in sufficient numbers and giving us their help. Service to others can give great satisfaction and contentment. Spastics face their lives with courage and enthusiasm, but what is often lacking is a sense of fun. If young people would associate themselves with us, visit our centres and help to raise funds, they would learn a lot and realise what life can be like for others less fortunate than themselves," said Mr. McConnochie.

In a reference to recent publicity on the taxation of charitable bequests, he said there were undoubtedly many anomalies in the present system. Many small contributions would be sent to charities if tax relief were given on single donations. Such a benefit would certainly increase contributions from many sources and in great degree relieve central and local government by allowing the charities concerned to increase services which would otherwise have to be provided by taxpayers and ratepayers.

The Council's report revealed that appeal income for the year ended March 31, 1973, dropped by more than £13,500 to £164,000 compared with the previous year. This was due to a sharp drop in contributions from the general public, and reduced income from legacies.

At present the Council and affiliated Associations, with the co-operation of statutory and local authorities, operate 13 special establishments and services in Scotland.

Spastics are keen riders

THE total number of spastics to be found in Riding for the Disabled Association groups up and down the country is now 1,432, it was disclosed at the organisation's fourth annual conference held at Kenilworth last month. This is quite a high proportion of the entire national membership, which is over 4,500.

The conference speaker was Lord Aberdare, Minister of Health and Social Security, who spoke of the importance of voluntary organisations in the field of social service.

The meeting ended with the showing of a new film featuring Princess Anne, Patron of the Riding for the Disabled Association. Copies of this film will soon be available and may be hired on application to the Secretary, RDA, c/o National Equestrian Centre, Kenilworth, CV8 2LR (Tel. Coventry 27192), who is also happy to answer general enquiries.

WHY HER LADYSHIP DECLINED

LADY Masham was recently asked to become President of Finchale Training College for the Disabled, Durham, which takes all types of disability, and she decided to have a look round before accepting. However, she decided she could not accept the

Presidency there and then. For, despite being impressed by the College, she found it quite inaccessible for anyone in a wheelchair to move around independently. There are steps to the front door and a revolving door. Now Finchale College authorities are busy adapting the building.

Pupils of Yaxley Junior School, Northamptonshire, with some of the old clothes they have collected for The Spastics Society. They filled 14 sacks in one week. This is the fourth year that the children have helped raise money for spastics and they have now been joined in the work by pupils at the village infants school.

Picture by courtesy of Peterborough Evening Telegraph

The Blue Angel Club, Paignton, Devon, has donated £127 to the Devon and Exeter Spastics Society. This was the proceeds of a Variety Night held at the club.

* * *

This year's gala ball organised by the Preston and District Spastics Group raised £500. The event was attended by more than 150 guests and group secretary Mrs. Olive Wallace said it was the most successful ball in the five years since it began.

Dream kitchen for wheelchair wife



MRS. Phyllis Telford, a disabled Yorkshire housewife, has a dream kitchen specially designed by her husband so that everything is within easy reach of her wheelchair. She is pictured using the hot plates grill section.

Using standard kitchen equipment, Mr. Telford planned the kitchen so that cooking and working surfaces were at the correct height for his wife, yet not too low for him to use while standing. This would be an advantage if they ever needed to sell their bungalow.

The various units are arranged in a horseshoe shape so

that Mrs. Telford can reach all the appliances merely by swivelling her chair.

The cooker is a Leisure split-level model with an automatic timing device, and hotplates and oven at the same height. Both stand on ideal kitchen cabinets which, like all the other units, have been reduced to a comfortable height of 2 ft. 8 ins.

Leisure gas cookers can be fitted with Aidataps — a simple extension which makes switching on easier for people with poor hand control. This firm also supplies oven taps with braille markings for use by the blind.



"Mush!" Brent Gauthier raced to first place in the four-12 age group with his version of a Yukon dogsled, pushed by his classmate, Lori Mason. Brent lives in Anchorage, Alaska.



Mrs. Bobbie Glauque of Salt Lake City, Utah, who has five daughters, won the 22-25 age group with her "Raggedy Ann" design, which she hopes will make her chair an object to be enjoyed rather than feared.



Winner of the 13-21 category was Linda Hunter of Beaver Dams, N.Y., who brightened up her chair with a vividly designed landscape. Her hobbies include painting and crewel embroidery.

Could art of Chair Deco catch on in Britain?

WHEELCHAIRS are not the most romantic and exotic of conveyances. Indeed, their chief virtue is their practicality. However, the Americans—noted for their ingenuity and love of all that is bright and colourful—have come up with an idea that might well catch on here.

It is the art of "wheelchair decoration."

Mrs. Susan Taylor, a Connecticut housewife suffering from multiple sclerosis decided to transform, with the help of her husband Rex, her wheelchair from a "cage of chrome" to "a friend with a constantly changing personality."

Her simple discovery mushroomed into a nationwide contest in which thousands took part and a White House reception was held recently to honour winners. There were four classes for ages: four to 12, 13-21, 22-55 and 55 and over.

We are indebted to the National Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children and Adults which supported the contest, for the pictures of the winners.

Demand for action to end disabled jobs crisis

A £6,500 machine that will allow heavily handicapped people to build delicate instruments in an ordinary factory setting is about to be built by The Spastics Society.

The machine, which is the first of its kind in this country, enables a person with limited use of his limbs to carry out complicated six-stage operations simultaneously. Its revolutionary new approach involves special cutting heads on which design help has been given by Bert Waple, production engineer in the Society's Industrial Centres Department.

Financed with a gift from the Rank Organisation, the machine will give work to four spastics, who will be able to build measuring instruments faster than their non-handicapped workmates.

60,000 workless

But though this breakthrough will help some handicapped people, funds are not available to build adapted units for all the 60,000 disabled people out of work.

The Government has just issued a consultative document on employment

of the disabled, and has invited comment from bodies such as The Spastics Society.

However, the Society's Director, James Loring, says that the time has come for action. "This problem cannot wait upon slow-turning wheels of Parliamentary procedure. We need to act immediately."

"At the moment many companies cannot afford to employ handicapped people. They cannot afford costly adaptations to machinery, or lifts, or special toilet facilities. What is needed is a system of grants to allow the employer to adapt his factory and factory floor for the disabled, and a system of subsidies to compensate the employer for a handicapped person whose work rate is lower than his more fortunate counterpart.

"The Disabled Persons' Act, with its quota obligations, has fallen into disuse and is almost unworkable.

"The Department of

Employment must intervene actively and make it possible and easy for the employer to give work to handicapped people.

"It is time to end consultations. The Government must take the action they know is needed—and take it now."

Current figures show that 60 per cent of employers are employing below the statutory three per cent handicapped staff.

Mr. Loring was speaking at a Poole conference on "The Changing Face of the Handicapped."

£3,000 on way to new centre

THE Caernarvonshire Spastics and Handicapped People's Society has collected £3,000 towards a new residential centre to be built in the area.

The group aims to raise £10,000 over the next few years to furnish and equip the home, which will cater for adults with all types of handicap.

A 'Good as New' shop run by Fareham Ladies' Circle, Hampshire, made a profit of £640 in one week. The money will go towards the cost of an audio visual unit which Circle members are hoping to provide for the Cerebral Palsy Unit at Cosham, near Portsmouth, Hampshire.



A more stately carriage is that of Mrs. Dora Stump of California, who chose a "grandmother's Lollipop Tree" to decorate her chair. She finds her chair attracts children wherever she goes, and won the 55 and over class.

Sometimes, there are two sides

to an emotional story

THE word spastic rouses a lot of emotion in people when they hear the word, and the emotion can range from pity to disgust.

Sometimes it makes all the difference if people look at the subject calmly and dispassionately. For instance, a Sunday newspaper reader wrote to complain that her young spastic niece who dribbled and had to wear a bib, was ordered out of a sweetshop because the manageress said she was spreading germs. The little girl had gone in with the writer's daughter.

The letter ended on the emotional plea "How can these kids ever live a normal life when some people treat them like this?"

That is one side of the story — and enough for most people, probably, to agree that it is an outrage.

However, someone else was in the shop at the same time, and consequently wrote with their version of the incident.

According to the sec-

ond reader, the child was politely asked to move away from the counter because she was dribbling, and perishable goods were on display on the counter. The child was served with the sweets that she wished, and was not asked to leave the shop.

It seems that the first writer, who had not been present in the shop, got the story from one of the children, and consequently it came out in a rather garbled version.

JUST IN CASE
YOU MISSED ME
TURN TO
PAGE 3



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